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FINAL REPORT

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WWW.FORAGEBEEF.CA

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www.Foragebeef.ca **Web Site Development**

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The Saskatchewan Agriculture Development Fund is a partner in the development of www.Foragebeef.ca web site that highlights and summarizes forage and beef research that is relevant to Saskatchewan beef producers. The Alberta Beef Producers, Canada Alberta Beef Research Fund, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, Manitoba Agriculture and Alberta Agriculture along with Matching Investment Initiatives Fund of Agriculture and Agri Food Canada are all supporting partners in the development of the web site.

WWW.Foragebeef.ca was developed as a means of creating a living library of research and extension information that is useful to Canadian Forage and Beef producers although the majority of the information is western Canadian based. In the initial phase an extensive search of international university and government web sites was done to locate the best available fact sheets on a wide variety of forage and beef topics. From nearly 7000 fact sheets, the 5 to 10 best fact sheets on each topic were chosen by a team of Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba forage and beef specialists. In addition, scientific research papers from the Canadian Journal of Animal Science and Canadian Journal of Plant Science were obtained. The extension specialists then developed Knowledge Nuggets which are a collection of one sentence key statements for each specific topic. These topics were then built into folders or modules consisting of Knowledge Nuggets, Fact Sheets and Scientific Review Papers all applicable to forage and cow calf producers. The process took several years and involved over 50 Agriculture and Agri Food Canada research scientists and provincial forage and beef cattle extension specialists from all across Canada. The www.Foragebeef.ca team won a major national Agriculture and Agri Food Canada award for their efforts in developing the web site in bringing agriculture research closer to Canadian farmers.

During the past year a significant amount of new information has been added to the site. One major topic is Climate Change. Information from the scientific papers that were presented at the Climate Change and Managed Ecosystems conference jointly sponsored by the Canadian Societies of Animal Science, Plant Science and Soil Science in Edmonton Alberta have been developed into two new modules under Environment called Climate change- Beef and Climate Change -Forage. These two modules provide a

detailed summary of information under Knowledge Nuggets, the best fact sheets that are available from Universities, government agencies and the Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Program for Agriculture and Agri Food Canada / Canadian Cattlemen Association. This is followed with several scientific papers on research on the forage and beef cattle industry as it relates to greenhouse gas emissions.

Another new folder deals with Molds and Mycotoxins as it effects on beef cattle health. This site deals with problems with molds and mycotoxins in animal feed and offers suggestions on how to alleviate possible health problems. A significant number of very good fact sheets have been added to this folder from around the world.

Research information on Nutrition and Reproductive Efficiency has been summarized from a wide variety of scientific papers and is posted on the site. Also, new folders have been developed on vitamin nutrition, nutrition as it relates to reproductive efficiency, cattle identification systems, bull management, bedding, and crossbreeding.

Next year the fact sheets and information developed under the Agriculture and Agri Food Canada Alberta Greencover Best Management Practices for riparian, forage and grazing lands will be available on the site. This information will come from numerous projects sponsored by this program and will feature new and up to date information on how to best manage these landscapes.

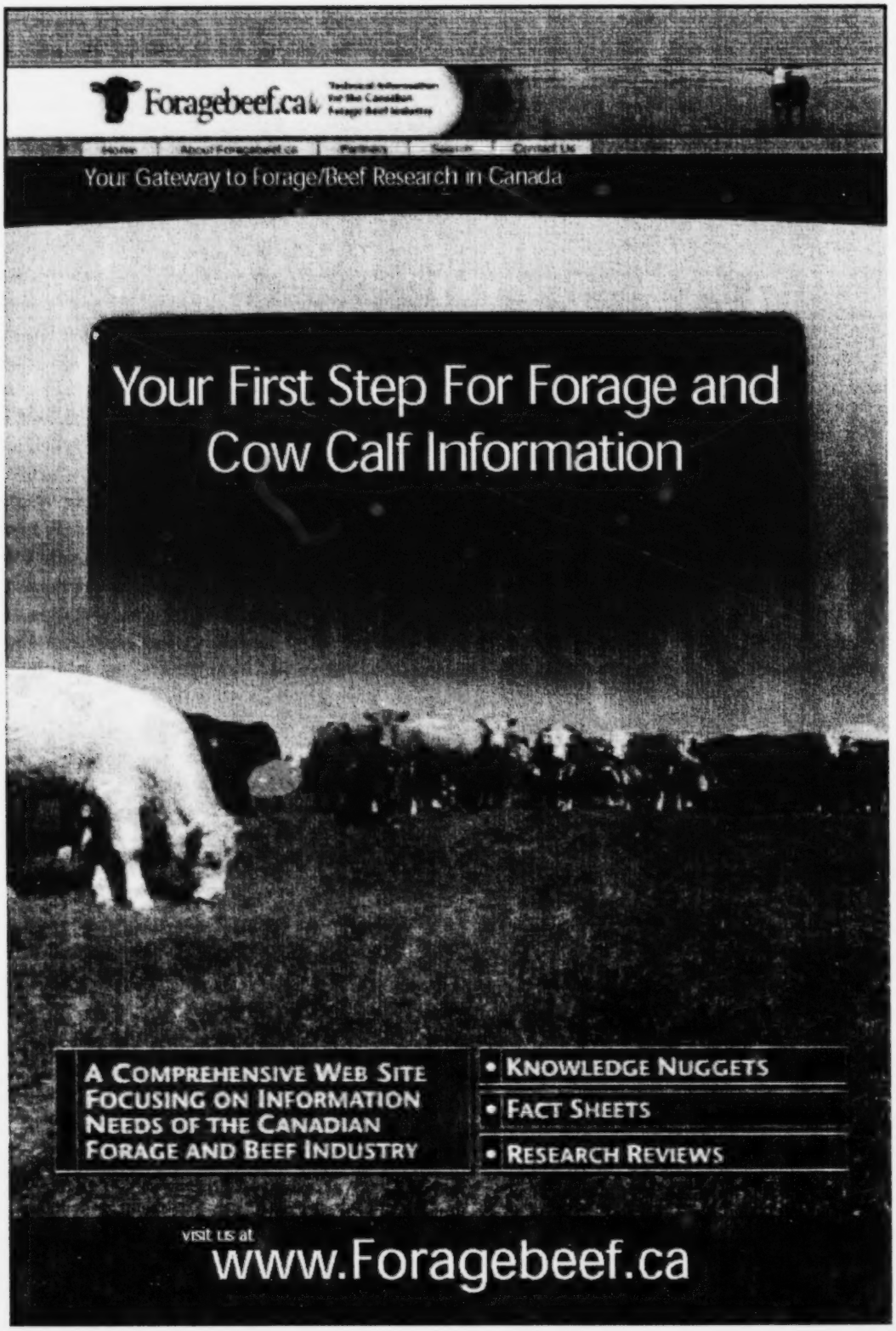
www.Foragebeef.ca has its own internal search engine which allows the viewer to quickly locate the information on the site. In the near future a new index on specific information will be added much like the index in a book. This will give an overall view of the wide breath of information available on the site.

Other new folders in the development phase include the inclusion of new research results on the "Evaluation of the NRC 1996, 2000 Feed requirements for Wintering Beef Cows Are we over-feeding our Cows" Sask. Agriculture Development Fund project #20020020 Phase 1 and Sask. Beef Development Project #20020020 Phase 2. (Block, Bourne, Lardner, McCartney, McKinnon. Currently Dr Hushton Block and myself are writing the scientific paper on this research project for submission to the American Journal of Animal Science. After the paper has been reviewed by other scientists for publication in the journal, we will be able to develop the folder on this new and more accurate information that we have developed on the winter feeding requirements for beef cows under Saskatchewan and Alberta winters.

We intend to develop new modules on forage insects and diseases, forage insect control, vaccination programs for beef cattle, conservation of soils, feed mixing and forage for other livestock ie. dairy and horses. This past year we have contacted the majority of Canadian forage and beef cattle research scientists and have included many of their recent research papers on the site. This process will continue next year with inclusion of approximately 200 more papers.

With all the new information being pre. ented on www.Foragebeef.ca web site an extensive advertising campaign continues to make cattle producers, extension agrologists, university and college students aware of the huge potential of the site. Color posters 11x17 have been developed by Alberta Agriculture along with business cards promoting the site. These have been mass distributed to cattle producers at all forage and beef cattle conferences and seminars across Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba as well as other parts of Canada and to forage and livestock specialists in Saskatchewan and across Canada. Information booths have appeared at various beef cattle conferences in Alberta and Saskatchewan and elsewhere promoting www.Foragebeef.ca. Information packages have been sent to all Canadian and northern US agriculture departments at universities and colleges for distribution to their students. Advertisements have been placed in provincial beef cattle association publications ie. Saskatchewan Stock Growers magazine, Canadian Cattlemen magazine etc. Many press releases have also appeared in the farm press all across Canada. Interestingly, different government and university agriculture agencies in Canada and the US are adopting our concept as a means of dissemination agriculture research information.

The basic concept of www.Foragebeef.ca is to offer a renowned web site that has selected the best research and extension information on all topics involving forage and beef production as it relates to western Canadian conditions. With the help of the Saskatchewan Agriculture Development Fund we have provided Saskatchewan and Canadian farmers with an easy to use, living information system that will meet their future needs for agriculture research information summarized in a form that producers can find and use.


Foragebeef.ca
Your Gateway to Forage/Beef Research in Canada
Your First Step For Forage and Cow Calf Information
A Comprehensive Web Site Focusing on Information Needs of the Canadian Forage and Beef Industry
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